28th February 1929]

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" May I know from the hon. Minister whether the experiments in prohibition aim at the private possession of country spirits also ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" There is a certain limit fixed to the extent of which country spirits can be possessed by private individuals. That limit is being reduced year by year."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" In carrying experiments towards prohibition in selected areas, may I know whether the Government have prohibited the possession of country spirits altogether at least in those localities ? "

The hon Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" In those areas private possession of country spirits has not been altogether prohibited, but the quantity has been reduced to a certain extent."

Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—" May I know whether the intention of the Government is to prohibit altogether the possession of country spirits by private persons ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" The Government are now trying experiments by reducing the quantity of private possession ; if they are successful, the Government will consider the other question."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I ask what the limit was the year before last and what it is now ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Notice, Sir."

Rates of duty on liquors and spirits.

* 1523 Q.—Mr. C. GOPALA MENON : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) what the rates of duty are on locally made foreign liquor, country brewed beer and imported spirits ;

(b) what the rates of fixed licence fees are for the various kinds of foreign liquor shops ; and

(c) whether the Government are considering the desirability of increasing the rates of duty on imported spirits and the fixed licence fees charged for foreign liquor shops ?

A.—(a) Locally made foreign liquor—Rs. 17-8-0 per proof gallon.
Country brewed beer—8 annas per imperial gallon.
On imported spirits a customs duty is levied by the Government of India. No further duty is levied on them by the Local Government. A statement [a] showing the rates of duties levied by the Government of India is appended.

(b) Please see appended statement. [a]

(c) The Government have not under consideration any proposal to raise the fixed licence fees in respect of foreign liquor shops. The question of the raising of the rates of duty on imported spirits is one for consideration by the Government of India.

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 265-267 infra.